

The First Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
Canton Center, Connecticut

March 29, 2009

10:00 AM

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

CHIMES

Karen Olejniczak

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE: "Draw Us to You"

-arr. Burkhardt

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP: (**responsively**)

The days are surely coming, says our God;

The day is here to affirm a new covenant.

We call on God's steadfast love and mercy.

We seek a strong and vital relationship with our God.

God's law will be written on our hearts.

Our Creator claims us and forgives our faithlessness.

We are eager to know the God who loves us.

We are ready to learn God's intention for us.

God offers us the joy of salvation.

Our brokenness can be healed and wholeness restored.

We are open to the new and right spirit God offers.

We seek guidance for our daily living.

Amen.

Amen.

*HYMN 23 (*Chalice*)

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in **unison**) followed by

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors):

As Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you, O God, we cry out to you today. You know our losses and our fears. You understand our suffering and pain. We wish to see Jesus, to know the healing touch felt by so many. We want to hear a reassuring voice. We long to see a new day when evil is overcome and wrong cannot prevail. Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour. Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true to your covenant with us. In Jesus' name we pray, and also saying, *Our Father...*

*GLORIA PATRI (*Chalice* # 35)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

MINISTER: Fellow members of this household of faith, I commend to your love this child whom we now receive as a member of the family of God. Will you endeavor to live so that he may grow in the knowledge and love of God, and of our Savior Jesus Christ? Will you support his parents in their efforts to guide their child in the way of the gospel, and to faithful service in Christ's church?

CONGREGATION: We will endeavor to do so, and we promise our support.

*HYMN 464 (*Chalice*)

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

OFFERTORY: "Holy Love"

-Pepper Choplin

Senior Choir

*DOXOLOGY (*Chalice* # 46)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (in **unison**)

We dedicate these offerings to the proclamation of your word, the teaching of your ways, and the living of your will for all humankind. We reach out with joy and gladness to offer your love to the world. May these gifts enable the sharing of your presence with many who have not experienced a sense of their own value as your children. As we keep covenant with you, we would also share its joys and obligations with our neighbors. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

followed by the PASTORAL PRAYER and ORGAN RESPONSE

*HYMN 200 (*Chalice*)

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Pew Bibles, O.T. p. 693)

John 12:20-33 (Pew Bibles, N.T. p. 99)

SERMON:

"THE NEW COVENANT"

*HYMN 638 (*Chalice*)

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE: "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked"
-O'Hara/ arr. Downing

(*All who are able, please stand)

The Rev. Susan M. Prichard	Interim Minister
Sarah W. LeGeyt	Director of Christian Education & Youth
Mary Lou Keefe	Organist; Director of Music
Lydia Petersen and Dave Ayres	Duty Deacons
Hugh Anderson	Duty Trustee
Harry and Eileen Lyons	Greeters
Gary and Karen Adajian	Ushers
Joan Colglazier and Joan Dyer	Coffee Hour Hosts

THE FLOWERS today are given by Jane Secombe in loving memory of her husband, Lee, and her daughter, Beth Palmer.

WE CORDIALLY WELCOME those who are visitors to this church and to this morning's worship service. Please sign the guest book in the vestibule. Or, fill in a Friendship Card found in the pews. Also found with the Friendship Cards are Pew Envelopes. Please feel free to use them for any donation.

NURSERY CARE is available in the lower level of the Parish House for infants through 2 years old.

LARGE PRINT COPIES of today's bulletin are available on the ushers' tables in the back of the church. Large print editions of the Chalice Hymnal are also available for use during worship.

PLEASE JOIN US in the Parish Hall after worship today for a time for refreshment and fellowship.

Please see bulletin insert for announcements

The First Congregational Church
Canton Center, Connecticut
(United Church of Christ)



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ANNOUNCEMENTS – SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

GIFTS TO ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING special mission offering of the United Church of Christ may still be made today during the morning offering. Checks may be made payable to this church with OGHS in the memo section. Thank you.

CHERUB CHOIR: Today, 11:15 AM in the Music Room.

JUNIOR CHOIR: Today, 11:30 AM in the Music Room.

EASTER LILIES may be ordered during the coffee hour today. Lilies may be given in memory of, in honor of or in celebration of a loved one and will beautify our church at Easter Sunday services, April 12. See or call Phyllis Meeker, 673-8402. Lilies will cost \$11.50 each. Donors are kindly requested to leave their lilies until after the second (10:30) Easter service.

SYF EASTER CANDY will be distributed during the coffee hour to those who placed orders.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Today, 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM. Dr. Larry Carlton, our church historian, will offer a slide presentation on the history of this church.

LEARN ABOUT OUR CHURCH HISTORY TODAY. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend the presentation in the Parish Hall at 11:45 AM by Dr. Larry Carlton, our church historian.

PALM SUNDAY POTLUCK AND EASTER EGG HUNT (for children under 10) next Sunday. Please remember to sign up on the kitchen door. If you can help set up, serve, or clean up, please contact Rachel Baugher at 693-0494.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR “EGG TREE” DONATIONS in the marked basket under the information table in the Parish House.

TALENT SHOW SIGNUPS. It's not too late for church school students to sign up for the talent show on May 3. See Mr. Koplak.

OUR MISSION COLLECTION for April is **toiletries** for men and women to be donated to My Sister's Place and South Park Inn.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS are needed for several Sundays in the months of April and May. Please sign up on the sheet posted to the right of the kitchen entrance.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP cultivates the spirit of Christ among the women of any church, encouraging spiritual growth through worship, stewardship, education, and service. Canton Center Church has a newly formed Women's Fellowship Committee. Its activities are open to all women of the church with the purpose of enjoying and enriching the lives of our amazing women of God through Christian fellowship. If you are interested in joining the committee to explore ideas and possibilities, please contact Ana Chambers (693-1493); laatka@comcast.net

COMING UP

SENIOR CHOIR: Monday, 7:00 PM.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (Morning Session): Tuesday, 10:30 AM.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Tuesday, 7 PM.; next Sunday, 8:00 AM.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (Evening Session): Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

BELL CHOIR: Thursday, 7:00 PM.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Next Sunday, 8:40 AM.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL NEXT SUNDAY. Church School children are asked to arrive in the Parish Hall by 9:50 AM.

TALENT SHOW/LUNCHEON TICKETS go on sale next Sunday.

PRIME TIMERS meet on Wednesday, April 8, at Noon in the Parish Hall for lunch and a program. The program will be presented by Rev. Sue Prichard on "Traveling Through Israel." Please bring a lunch; dessert and coffee will be provided.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 9, Worship at 7:30 PM.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE: Trinity Episcopal Church (55 River Road, Collinsville) invites all to a sunrise service on Easter Day, April 12, at 6 AM in Trinity's Memorial Garden. Worship will be followed refreshments in Trinity's Parish Hall.

EASTER SUNDAY Worship Services at Canton Center, April 12, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM, with child care at 9:00 AM. Church School classes do not meet.

At this service we remember that last night Jesus shared with his disciples and partake of the sacrament of our Lord's Supper. Following communion we observe the service of Tenebrae, the gradual extinguishing of the light, recalling the events of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion, and looking ahead in hope to the dawning of Easter Day.